



City of Santa Barbara
Airport Department

DATE: November 18, 2009
TO: Airport Commission
FROM: Karen Ramsdell, Airport Director
SUBJECT: General Aviation Landing Fees

RECOMMENDATION:

That Commission approve and authorize the Airport Director to impose a landing fee for all Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 135 operations and all transient (non-based aircraft, which shall be defined as all aircraft not listed on the annual Santa Barbara County Unsecured Property Assessment and Taxation System California, Department of Aeronautics Report of Aircraft) aircraft weighing over 10,000 pounds of gross landed weight, to assist in recovery of expenses related to the operation and maintenance of the airfield.

DISCUSSION:

Background

On August 19, 2009, Airport Staff met with the General Aviation Subcommittee of the Airport Commission (GASC) and proposed the institution of a general aviation landing fee. The purpose of the fee is to establish an equitable system to recover Santa Barbara Airport's airfield costs. After full discussion of all of the ramifications the Subcommittee recommended that the proposal be brought to the full Commission for approval.

Commission discussed the proposal on September 13, 2009, and prior to taking a vote, requested that staff clarify the definition of those aircraft that would be subject to the fees, and include provision for the waiver of fees for some non-profit organizations. The item was referred back to the General Aviation Subcommittee. (*Airport Commission Report dated September 16, 2009 is attached.*)

General Aviation Subcommittee

The General Aviation Subcommittee reconvened on October 5th, to discuss Commission's request. Staff proposed that the landing fee be imposed on all Part 135 operations and all non-based aircraft weighing over 10,000 pounds of maximum gross landed weight. Non-Based aircraft will be defined as all aircraft not listed on the annual

Santa Barbara County Unsecured Property Assessment and Taxation System,
California Department of Aeronautics Report of Aircraft.

The Subcommittee also endorsed Commission's recommendation that the policy contain a mechanism for granting exemptions or reduction in fees to special classes of aircraft including: Angel Flights, Life Guard, Medical Emergency, Federal, State, and Military aircraft. It also recommended that the Airport Director be given the authority, at his/her sole discretion; to waive landing fees under special circumstances.

Restated Policy

To collect a general aviation landing fee from all FAR Part 135 operations and all non-based aircraft weighing over 10,000 pounds of maximum gross landed weight. Non-based aircraft will be defined as all aircraft not listed on the annual Santa Barbara County Unsecured Property Assessment and Taxation System, California Department of Aeronautics Report of Aircraft. Exceptions to the landing fee will include, but are not limited to: Angel Flights, Life Guard, Medical Emergency, Federal, State, and Military Aircraft. The Airport Director, at his/her sole discretion, may waive landing fees under special circumstances.

This policy will be effective January 1, 2010. The General Aviation Subcommittee recommends approval.